

LIEUTENANT
H. YALDWIN
5TH LIGHT HORSE
17TH JULY 1916

Hamilton was an oft-published poet, with many of his rhymes appearing in the early school magazines. Here is one, published in the 1888 edition:

TO BOYS LEAVING SCHOOL...

Pause and consider, boys: you're leaving school
The school where you have passed so many years;
Your world in miniature, your Cosmos small.
What end have you accomplished all these years?
Books you have conned, examinations passed,
Honour perhaps have gained at work and play -
A credit to your parents and your school.
Have you been open, manly, truthful, pure,
Above the shadow of suspicion, caring not
But to confess your fault, and bear the cost?
So will you be in after life! They say
"The boy is father to the man," and so it is.
Or were you petty, mean, and "up to tricks,"
Spiteful and selfish, indolent and vain,
Dishonest, dirty -? No, it cannot be;
Yet if 'tis so, how wondrous great the chance,
That, without high resolve and struggle hard,
You will make shipwreck of your after life.
Your future now is like a fair white page

'Tis in your power to use for good or ill,
Leaving the known, the unknown world you'll try,
Doubtless with resolutions high and good.
You'll be a man whom failure will not daunt.
Well, look before you leap;
but once in the air,
Strive might and main to grasp whate'er you seek.
Another thing, remember, mark it well,
Be not a bubble on the stream of life,
But a strong swimmer struggling towards a goal.
Then let your motto be, Excelsior.
Think not every man will be your friend
Who proffers aid or links his arm to yours.
Lend not nor borrow - on your own arm lean
Yet help the weak and poor whene'er you can.
Be temperate in all things; fear your God
And do the right - for self-respect is sweet.
Cringe not to mortal or to rise or fall,
But snap your fingers in despite of all.

Date of Birth:	3 December 1871
Student Number:	454
Enrolment:	17 July 1882
Age Entered IGS:	11 years
Final Day at IGS:	Dec 1888

Unit:	5 th Light Horse Regiment
Regimental Number:	2 nd Lieutenant
Enlistment:	20 March 1915
Age at Enlistment:	43 years
Final Day of Service:	11 April 1916*

Hamilton St Clair Yaldwyn was a Troop Sergeant in the 4th Queensland Imperial Bushmen and went to South Africa in April 1900 with Colonel Aytoun to fight in the Boer War. There he served for one hundred and eighty days. On his Queen's Medal, he had two bars - one for the Orange River Colony, Transvaal, and the other for Cape Colony. On Yaldwyn's King's Medal, he had the 1902 bar. The bars recognise his service to the Empire.

Yaldwyn rose to the rank of Captain in the 7th Australian Commonwealth Horse under Harry Chauvel (who, in WW1, gained distinction at the Battle of Beersheeba - and was also uncle to another of our Old Boys, Charles). After the Boer War ended, he remained in South Africa, even after the peace was declared. When World War One erupted, he again enlisted to serve his King and Country.

By October 1915, Yaldwyn had embarked from Sydney on board the HMAT A47 Mashrobra for Egypt where he would serve until a disastrous misunderstanding saw him 'Dismissed from His Majesty's Service', hence the * next to his Final Day of Service. He was accused of being drunk on duty - a charge he vehemently fought. His evidence, at his General Court Martial stated:

"On December 6th 1915, I paraded to the Medical Officer, he ordered me to my tent and told me not on any account to eat anything that day. These instructions I carried out to the letter. A remark passed by Capt. Brune in the evening had a rather depressing effect on me. Consequently the following morning I went on duty when really unfit. I carried out my duties as far as Capt. Brune's instructions went. I went to my tent, feeling very ill, I took some spirits, lay down and went to sleep.

I was awakened by Lieut. Forbes and placed under arrest." He was then asked the following questions, to which he replied:

Question - On the 6th Dec. had you anything to drink?

Answer - No except tea without milk or sugar.

Question - Had you taken liquor for some months before.

Answer - No. I had been teetotal for three years."

His defence, and the statements of his fellow soldiers who swore that they had never seen him drink alcohol, wasn't enough to save him. On the 2nd of February, 1916, he was found guilty of the charge. By the 11th he had embarked for Australia from the Suez, on board the 'Runic'. By the 17th, Hamilton St Clair Yaldwyn had died. The official cause of his death being pneumonia. The following entry in the Queensland Times, Monday 12 April, 1915, recalls:

"Yaldwyn, Hamilton St. Clair, on July 16th, at Brisbane General Hospital, of pneumonia." That was the first intimation I saw of the death of a very popular local Rugby Union footballer during the nineties. "Butch" Yaldwyn was an Ipswich Grammar School boy, and a son of a former Police Magistrate of this city - Mr. William Yaldwyn. I bade "Butch" Yaldwyn good-bye at Enoggera, and was under the impression that he had left Chermside as a Lieutenant in charge of Light Horse reinforcements.

Indeed his Grammar School mate, Lieut. W. S. Hunter, told me Yaldwyn had left, and that he expected to follow in his tracks. Lieut. Hunter left shortly afterwards. It was, therefore, a big surprise when I read the above announcement. As a military man, Butch Yaldwyn went to South Africa, as a member of the Fourth Queensland contingent, and

served there under the late Col. W. T. Deacon, C.B., V.D. (father of W.T.S Deacon IGS class of 1898), who described Sergt. Yaldwyn (he had gained three stripes while in South Africa) as one of the best fighting men in the "Fighting Fourth." Sergt. H. St. Clair Yaldwyn came back with Col Deacon's men, and he subsequently returned to South Africa, as a Captain of a Company, in, I think, the seventh contingent. He was regarded as a very fearless officer and he was offered a commission in a crack English regiment, but he preferred Queensland to England.

Since then he has been in the back blocks of Northern Queensland, which parts he left to offer his services in the present trouble. As a footballer, he was the ... "Tiger", and in 1893 he represented Queensland against the New Zealand representatives, the matches having been played in Brisbane.

"Butch" Yaldwyn was a prominent member of the formidable Boomerang combination, of Brisbane fame in those days. Altogether, he was probably one of the finest all-round athletes Queensland has produced. It will be remembered that he was a prominent figure in rescue work during the disastrous floods of 1893. His many comrades - school and football - will be sorry to learn of his death."

